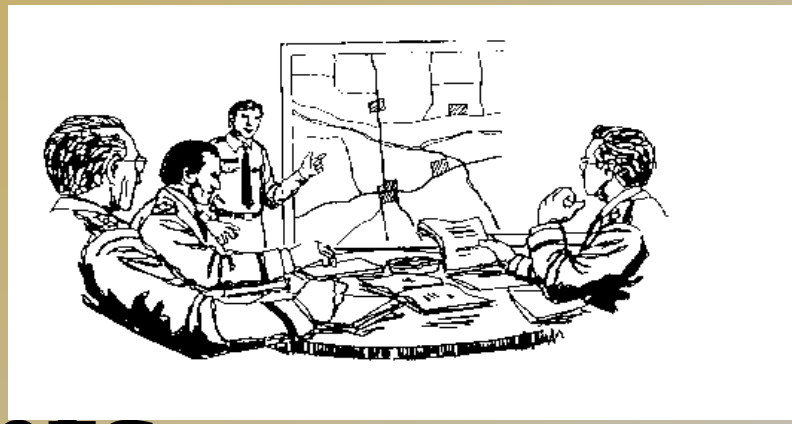
MARINE CORPS PLANNING PROCESS IN AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS PLANNING

OPS 020

LECTURE AGENDA

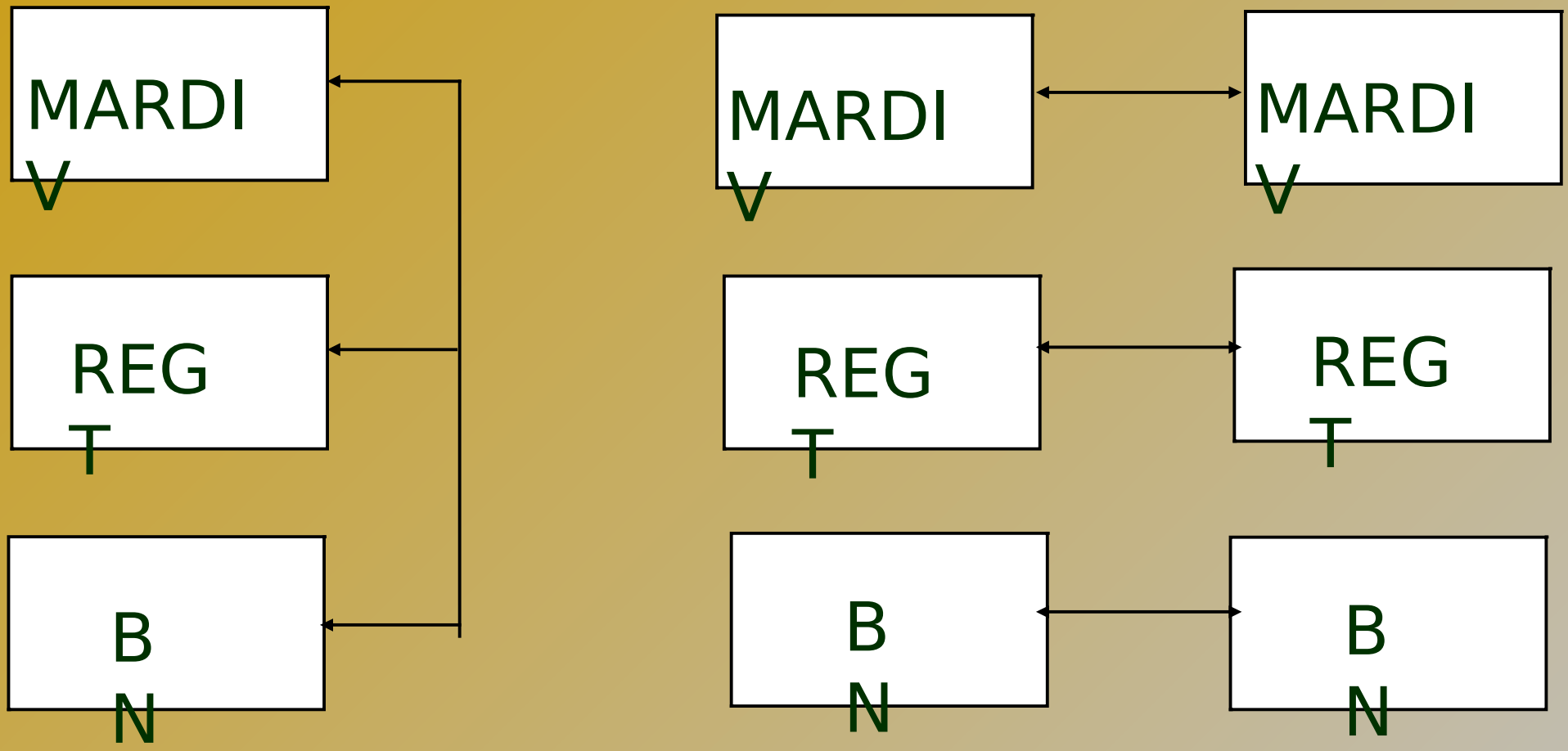
- Characteristics of Amphib Ops Planning
- Initiating Directive(s)
- Basic Decisions
- Planning Documents
- Six Step MCPP



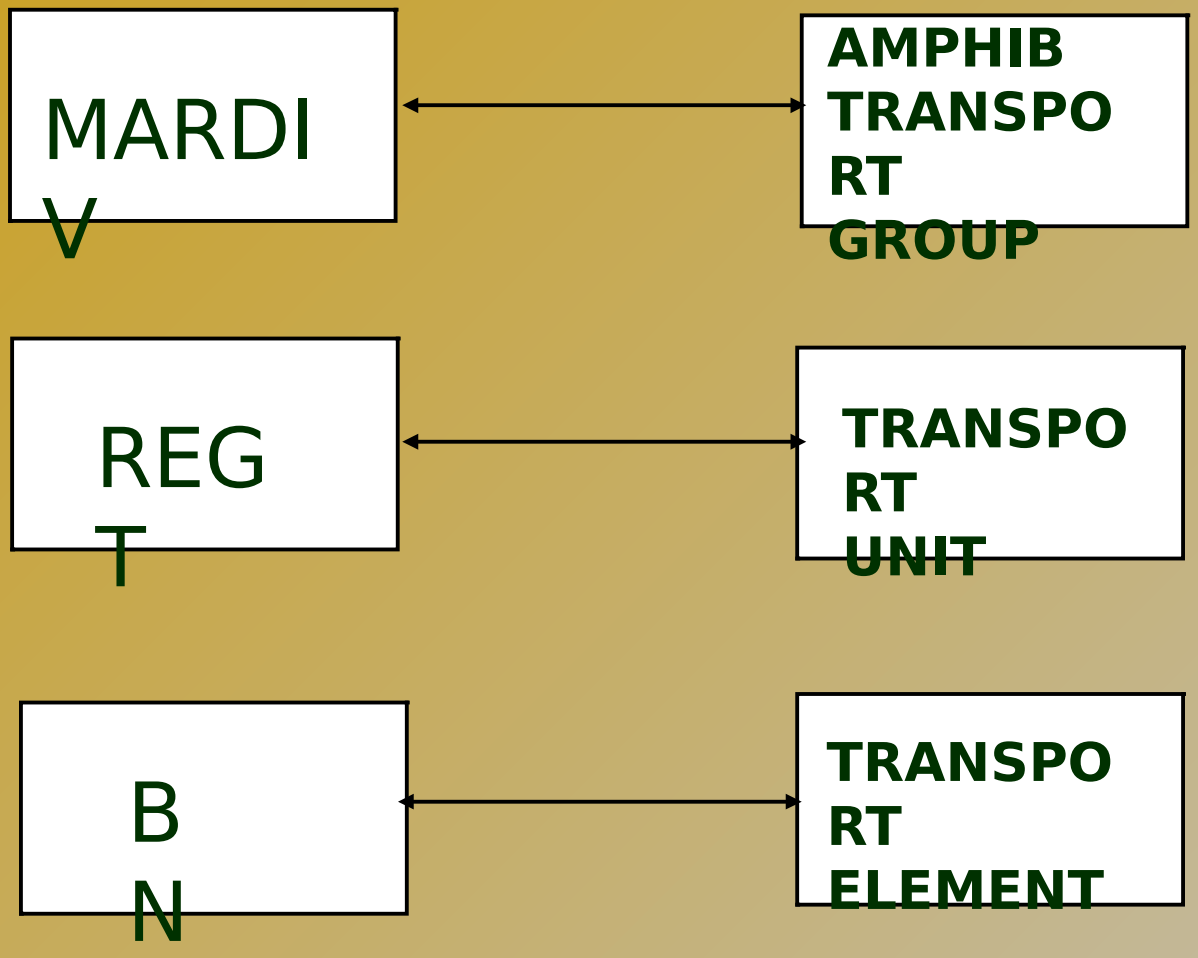
CHARACTERISTICS OF AMPHIBIOUS PLANNING

- Concurrent Planning
- Parallel Planning
- Detailed Planning

CONCURRENT PLANNING



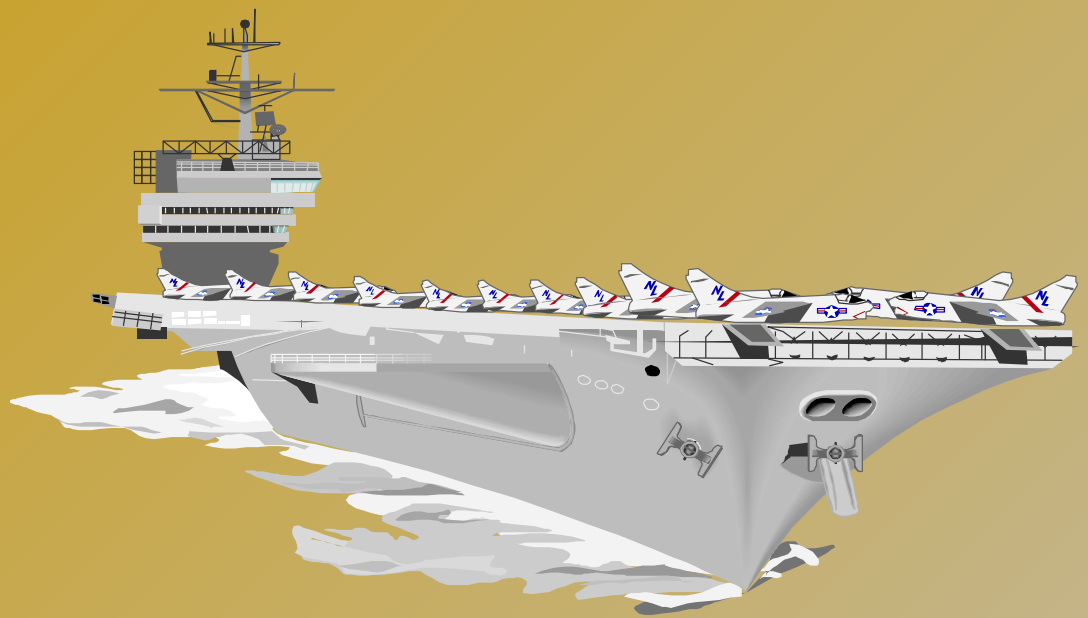
PARALLEL PLANNING



DETAILED PLANNING

- Level of Detail
- Phase of Planning

PERMA
and
EMPRA ?



THE INITIATING DIRECTIVE

… AN ORDER TO CATF TO CONDUCT AN AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION.

-- Joint Pub 3-02

INITIATING DIRECTIVE(S)

- Issued by Cdr with Necessary Forces
- May Come in Form of Several Messages or Orders (Deployment, Alert, Warning, Execute Orders)
- No Specific Format
- Certain Items Needed

INITIATING DIRECTIVE

- 1. Establishes the Task Force
- 2. Assigns a Mission
- 3. Provides Forces
- 4. Assigns Assault and Follow-On Shipping
- 5. Designates Commanders (CATF, CLF

INITIATING DIRECTIVE

- 6. Defines the AO or AOA
- 7. Provides a Code Name
- 8. Sets Limiting/Target Dates
- 9. Establishes Command Relationships

INITIATING DIRECTIVE

- 10. Provides Guidance on Nuclear and Chemical Munitions
- 11. Provides Guidance on Terminating Instructions
- 12. Provides Info on Supporting Ops
- 13. Provides Crypto and OPSEC Guidance

INITIATING DIRECTIVE

14. Provides the CONOPS for Deception

15. Provides other information as required.

BASIC DECISIONS

Approach to Planning prescribed in Joint Amphibious Doctrine

Link or "common thread" between Planning Processes of diffferent Services.

BASIC DECISIONS

- ATF General Course of Action
- ATF Objectives
- Landing Force Mission
- Landing Sites

*** Made at Initial Planning Conference or by Crisis Action Team(CAT)**

BASIC DECISIONS

- Landing Force Objectives
- Beachheads
- Landing Area
- Concept of Ops Ashore
- Landing Beaches
- Helicopter LZs
- Fixed-Wing LZs and Drop Zones for Airborne and Air-Transported Ops
- D-day/H-hour

PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- Initial Studies
  - "Scheme of Maneuver for Planning"
  - Plans and Estimates
- CATF Planning Directive
- CLF Planning Program
- Planning Memorandums
- Outline Plan
- Alternate Plan

INITIAL STUDIES AND ESTIMATES *

- Enemy Situation and Capabilities (Order of Battle, Doctrinal Templates, etc)
- General Topo, Hydrographic, Climate Info
- Location of Key Facilities
- Location of Advanced Air Bases
- Political Climate
- Ports and Beach Studies

*** Done before deployment**

CATF PLANNING DIRECTIVE

- ATF Mission Statement
- CATF Analysis
- Assumptions
- ATF General Course of Action
- OPSEC Guidance
- Planning Schedules
- Coordinating Instructions

CLF PLANNING PROGRAM

- Planning Directive
- Planning Schedule

- Commander's Guidance
  - Commander's Intent (Purpose of Operation, Endstate, Enemy Critical Vulnerability, Enemy Center of Gravity)

  - ***Planning Timeline***

PLANNING MEMORANDUMS

- Information Exchange / Flow

- Fragmentary Orders to the Staff
  - Updates on Intel Requests
  - Basic Decisions

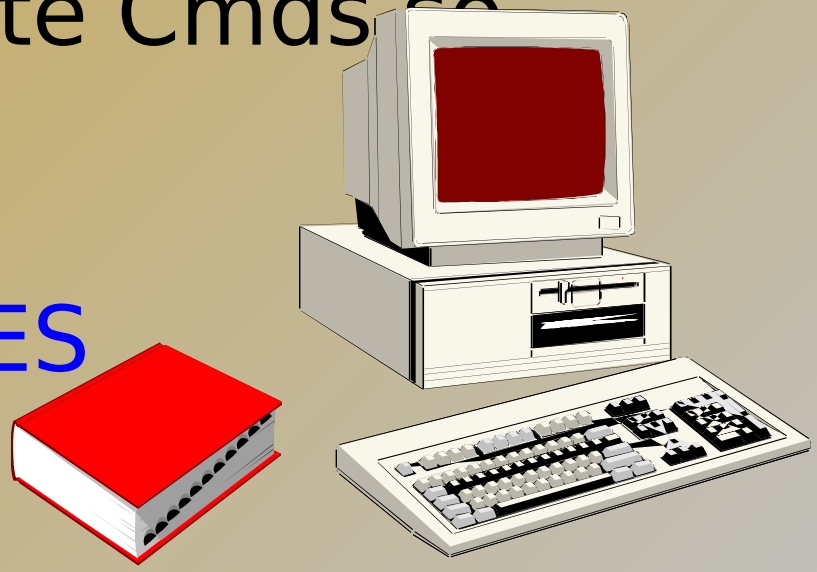
What do I know?
Who needs this information?
Have I given it to them?

OUTLINE PLAN

- Based on Concept of Operations Ashore
  - Mission Statement
  - Generic Task Org
  - Concept of Ops, Logistics, Aviation

- Provides Info to Subordinate Cmds so they can begin planning

- ATF Sends to HHQ via JOPES



JOPES Vols

ALTERNATE PLAN

- Selected from other Course of Action developed
- Could have different basic decisions
- **May require additional planning cell**

OPLAN or OPORD

- Written format
- Verbal -- May be Issued during R2P2 Confirmation Brief
- Includes Landing Plan

Differences Between OPLAN/OPORD

OPLAN:

MAKE ASSUMPTIONS
EFFECTIVE TO PLAN

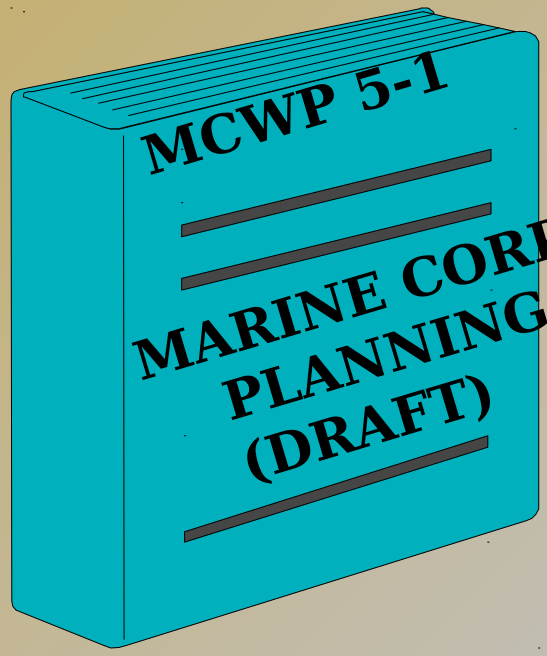
OPORD:

NO ASSUMPTIONS
EFFECTIVE TO EXECUTE

PLANNING DOCUMENTS

"TRADITIONAL" AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION	***ARG/MEU (SOC) AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION***
INITIAL STUDIES AND ESTIMATES	INITIAL STUDIES AND ESTIMATES
CATF PLANNING DIRECTIVE	COMMANDER'S GUIDANCE FROM CATF
CLF PLANNING PROGRAM	COMMANDER'S GUIDANCE & TIMELINE FROM CLF
PLANNING MEMORANDUMS	BRIEFINGS
OUTLINE PLANS	C0NOPS BRIEF
ALTERNATE PLANS	ALTERNATE PLANS

Six Step Marine Corps Planning Process



6 STEP MCPP

- Logical Way to Perform Tactical Decision Making
- Applicable for All Echelons of Command
- Replaces the 15 Step Planning Process

Why the MCPP?

- Focus on the Fundamentals of Operational Planning:
  - The Tenets of the MCPP
- Universal Process:
  - Can be used at all levels
  - Applicable throughout the spectrum of conflict
- Planning Tempo:
  - Facilitates execution tempo

MCPP and other Planning Process

- **The Components cover all the necessary steps in any other planning process**
- **Aligned with Joint Deliberate and Crisis Action Planning**
- **MCPP embodies Naval Maneuver Warfare Doctrine**

Marine Corps Planning Process

- **"Planning is the act of preparing for FUTURE DECISIONS in an uncertain ENVIRONMENT"**

  - **MCPP Facilitates:**
    - **Coordinated Action**
    - **Shared Situational Awareness**
    - **Common expectations about evolving actions and desired outcome**
    - **Exercise of Initiative**
    - **Shape the thinking of planners**

TENETS OF THE MCPP

- **TOP DOWN PLANNING**
  - Focuses on Commanders Intent and Guidance
  - Oral, Graphic, or Written
  - Allocate Forces and Resources

- **SINGLE BATTLE CONCEPT**
  - Unity of Command
  - Visualize the Battlespace
  - Use of Combined Arms Concept

- **INTEGRATED PLANNING**
  - Systematic, Coordinated, and Thorough

SIX COMPONENTS OF MCPP

- 1. MISSION ANALYSIS
- 2. COURSE OF ACTION (COA) DEVELOPMENT
- 3. COA ANALYSIS
- 4. COA COMPARISON/DECISION
- 5. ORDERS DEVELOPMENT
- 6. TRANSITION

1. MISSION ANALYSIS

- **Input: Documents, guidance, Intent, CCIRs, Battlespace Geometry, COGs, and CBAE information**

- **Process: Analysis this information through a process**

- **Output information:**
  - **Restatement Mission Statement**
  - **Refine Commanders Intent**
  - **Planning Guidance**

2. COA DEVELOPMENT

- **DEVELOP A RANGE OF OPTIONS**
  - **What do I want to do?**
  - **How do I want to do it?**
- **Input: Information from mission analysis**

- **Process:**
  - **Roughcut COA, COA refinement , COA validation (both analysis and synthesis)**

- **Output:**
  - **Designated COAs for analysis**

3. COA ANALYSIS

Examine options through wargame:

Input: Information from COA Development

Process:

- Wargaming
- Refine Staff Estimates
- Develop CONOPS based on WFs integratio
- COA analysis brief

Output:

- Wargamed COAs, Critical Events, Decision Points
- Commanders Evaluation Criteria

COMPARISON/DECISION

- **IDENTIFY/SELECT THE COA THAT BEST ACCOMPLISHES THE MISSION**
- **Advantages/Disadvantages/Risks**
- **Input: Information from COA Analysis**

- **Process:**
  - **Evaluationof COAs, Comparison, Decision, Issue Warning Order**

- **Output:**
  - **CONOPS, Task Organization**

5. ORDERS DEVELOPMENT

- **ARTICULATING THE PLAN THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND FOCUS**
- **Input:**
  - **Output from COAComparison/Decision**
- **Process:**
  - **CONOPS incorporated into FRAGO/OPORD**
  - **Staff Estimates converted into ANNEXES/APPENDICES**
  - **CMDR Approves Order**
- **Output:**

6. TRANSITION

- **THE PROCESS OF MOVING FROM PLANNING TO EXECUTION**
- **How do we…..**
  - **Retain tactical integrity of the plan?**
  - **Build SA for those executing the plan?**
  - **Maintain tempo?**
- **Input:**
  - **Output from orders development**
- **Process:**
  - **Transition Briefs/Drills**
- **Output:**
  - **Shared SA, Understanding of**

OPERATION PLANNING TEAM (OPT)

- Manning the OPT
- OPT interaction

Summary

- Characteristics of Planning
- Initiating Directive
- Basic Decisions
- Planning Documents
- Six Step Marine Corps Planning Process

ANY SAVED ROUNDS
I THINK NOT